

F5-P

ADOPTING IPM IN TENNESSEE CHILD-SERVING FACILITIES

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Pest management programs in schools, childcare and other child-serving facilities need to balance and reduce risk associated with pests and pesticides. To meet this objective, an IPM in Schools Program was initiated in the spring of 1996 as a joint venture between The University of Tennessee and The Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Regulatory Services. Our IPM program was and still is promoted throughout the state. In 1997, results from a school system survey indicated 11.7% were using IPM and in 1999, our latest estimate raised the percentage of school children in schools using IPM to 38%. The IPM in Schools Program was expanded in 2001 to include all child-serving facilities and a new research team was formed, The University of Tennessee Youth, Environment and Health team (UT YEAH) to include members from The University of Tennessee's Family and Consumer Science, College of Social Work and Department of Health and Safety Sciences. Six workshops for 140 stakeholders in Knoxville, Nashville, Jackson, Chattanooga, Jonesborough and Memphis were conducted to discuss improving the well-being of Tennessee's children by reducing risks associated with pests and pesticides in child-serving facilities. A summary of the workshops can be found at <http://utyeah.utk.edu/>. Results of a school system survey conducted in the winter of 2002/2003 to reassess these risks will be presented.